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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/967,169	09/27/2001	Gregory L. Ebert	42390P11907	5995

7590

04/21/2003

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EXAMINER

SUAREZ, FELIX E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2857

DATE MAILED: 04/21/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/967,169

Applicant(s)

EBERT, GREGORY L.

Examiner

Felix E Suarez

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-49 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 September 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to because:

In Figures 5, 7, 9 and 11, labels and the voltage level values according with the detailed description of the specification are not readable.

Correction is required.

Minor Informalities

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

In page 2 line 7 of the specification, phrase "from a "I" to a "O" " should be – from a "1" to a "0"--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this

Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

- (e) the invention was described in-
 - (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or
 - (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

3. Claims 1-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over Trans (U.S. Patent No. 6,377,640).

With respect to claims 1, 9, 21, 33, 38 and 44, Trans teaches a method (or a machine readable medium), comprising:

a) forming a product waveform by multiplying a positive signal waveform and negative signal waveform, said positive signal waveform and said negative signal waveform being representative of a logical transition within a differential signal (see col. 42 line 33 to col. 43 line 26); and

b) determining the crossing (or highest or lowest) point voltage of said logical transition within said differential signal (see col. 44, lines 49-58) by calculating the square root of a maximum of said product waveform (see col. 35 line 63 to col. 36 line 4).

With respect to claims 2, 10, 16, 22 and 28, Trans further teaches comprising sampling said positive (see col. 34 line 58 to col. 35 line 12; see also col. 61, lines 43-56 and Figures 6D, 18, 24 and 27) and negative signal

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waveforms from an electronic circuit that transmits said differential signal (see col. 39, lines 9-19; see also col. 61, lines 43-56 and Figures 6D, 18, 24 and 27).

With respect to claims 3, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 17, 19, 20, 23, 25, 26, 29, 31, 32, 36, 37, 39, 40, 42, 43, 45, 46, 48 and 49, Trans further teaches said sampling is performed (or displaying) with an oscilloscope (see col. 56, lines 23-54).

With respect to claims 4, 12, 24, 18 and 30, Trans further teaches said electronic circuit further comprises a CMOS circuit (see col. 18, lines 38-50).

With respect to claims 5, 6 15, 27, 34, 35, 41 and 47, Trans further teaches said positive and negative signal waveforms have a 0.0 voltage reference that is aligned with a low (or high) logic level of said positive and negative signal waveforms (see col. 61, lines 43-56 and Figures 18, 24 and 27).

Conclusion

Prior Art

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Silberberg [U.S. Patent No 4,006,413] describes a representative value of root-square-mean (RMS) voltage.

Trans et al. [U.S. Patent Application Publication No 2003/0016770]
describes the signal's signature composed of both the waveform signal itself and
the content of the waveforms.

Tran [U.S. Patent No 5,483,138] describes a RMS voltage values.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier
communications from the examiner should be directed to Felix Suarez, whose
telephone number is (703) 308-4926. The examiner can normally be reached on
weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's
supervisor, Marc Hoff can be reached on (703) 308-1677. The fax phone
numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned
are (703) 308-7382 for regular communications and (703) 308-7382 for After
Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or
proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is
(703) 308-1782.

April 15, 2003

F.S.


MARC S. HOFF
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800